

Improving Osteoporosis Screening Rates in a Primary Care Practice Using an EMR-based Intervention

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Objective

- Osteoporosis is defined as a T-score ≤ -2.5 on DEXA or history of fragility fracture
- Affects a significant proportion of our population over 65 with an estimated annual cost burden of \$22 billion
- Only 46% of females over 65 years of age had been screened for osteoporosis at JHAP
- Our study aims to increase that percentage between July 2019 and July 2020 from 46% to 60%

Methods

An algorithm was established that screens patient charts for appropriateness criteria. If appropriate, the EMR would prompt the healthcare provider to order a DEXA scan during their next PCP encounter.

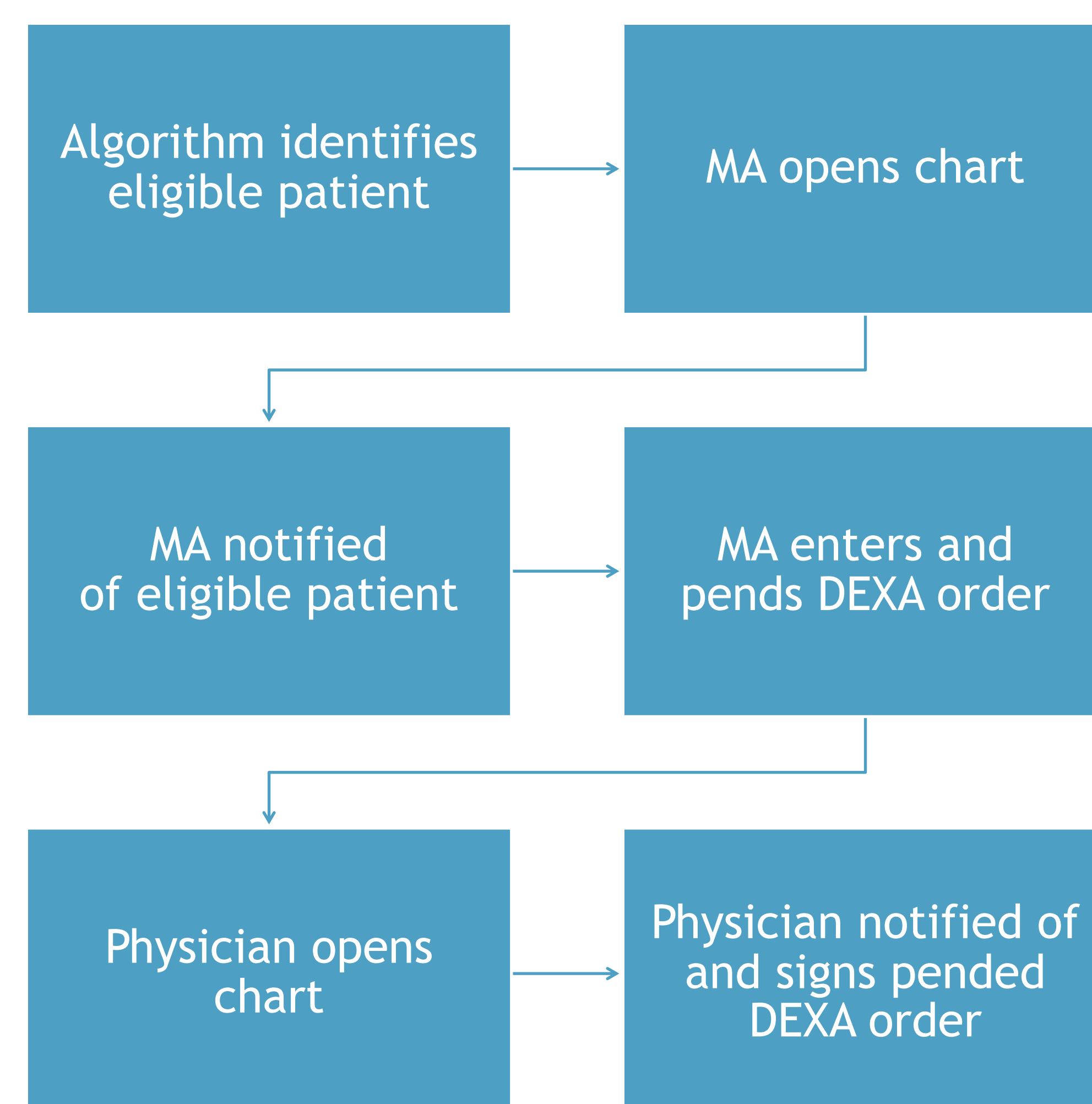


Figure 1. Flowchart depicting the process of how a DEXA is ordered in a typical clinic day

Results

Data were collected over a 6-month period from 12/2019 to 5/2020. We collected reports of who had completed DEXA scans vs who were due and did not have one ordered. Reports were run every 2 weeks.

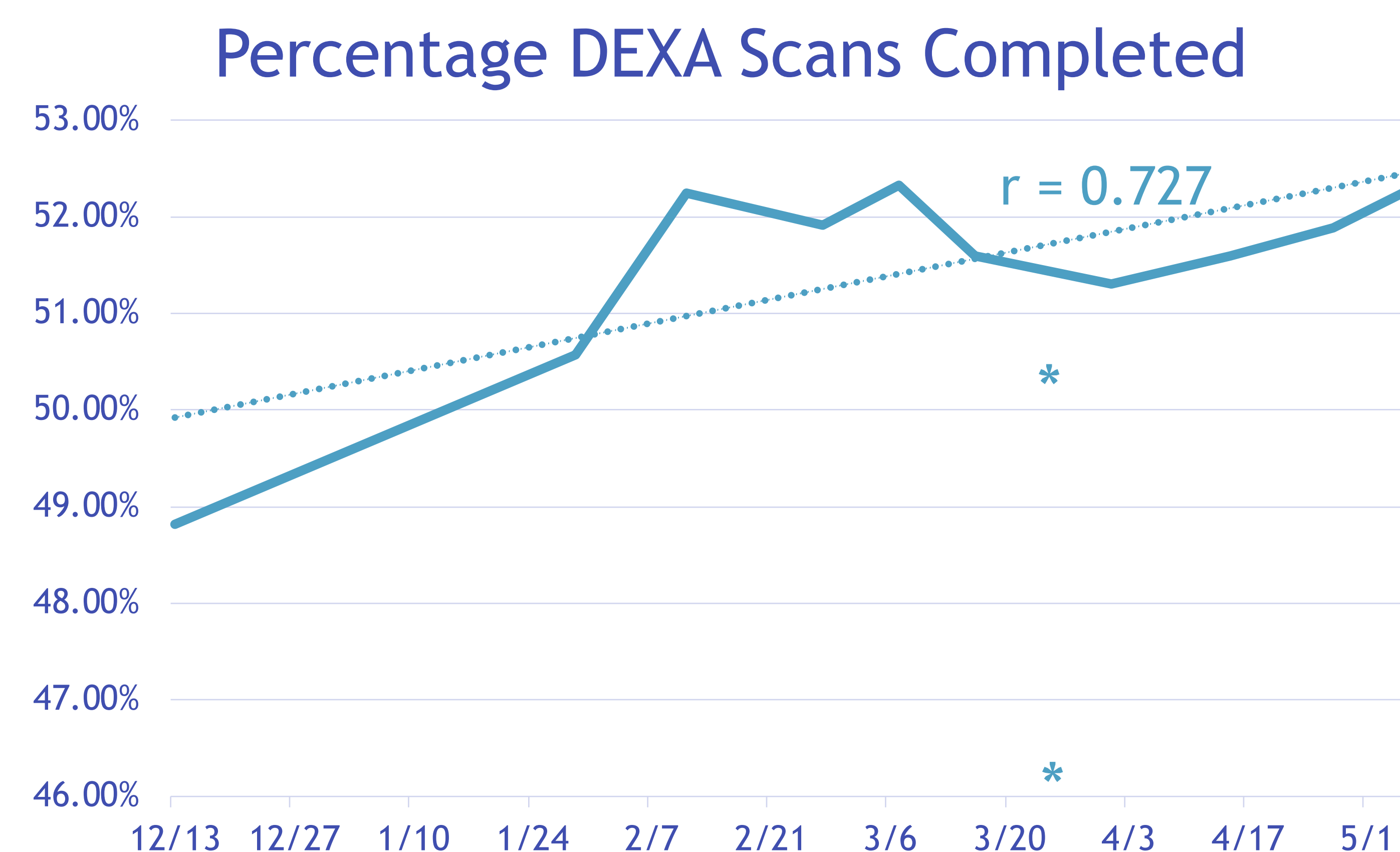


Figure 2. Percentage of DEXA scans completed out of those who are due over the course of a 6-month period
* - indicating the start date of Pennsylvania's "stay home" order

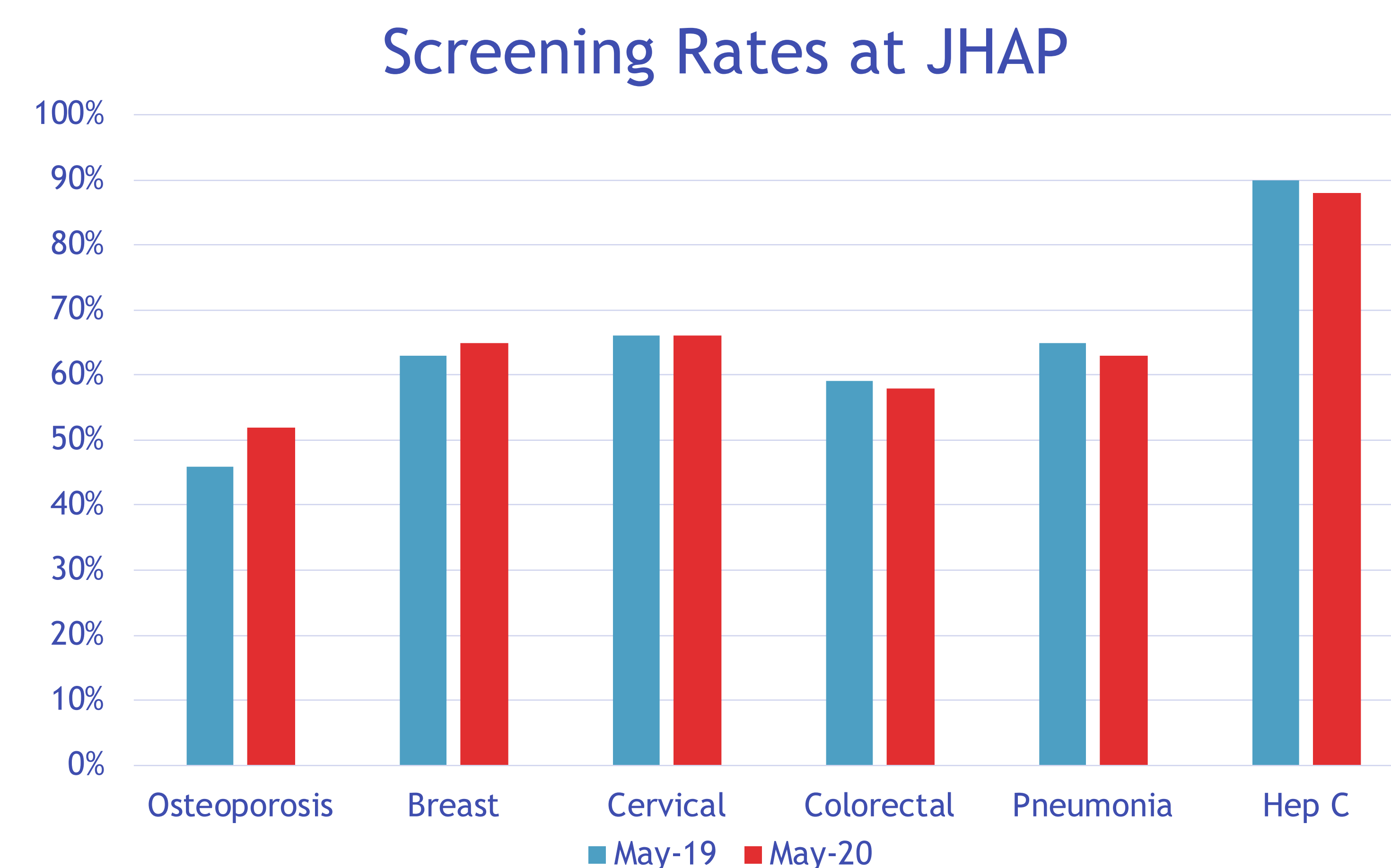


Figure 3. Screening rates for several medical conditions measured in the JHAP clinic

Discussion

After completing only one PDSA cycle we did not reach our smart aim of improving osteoporosis screening rates to 60 percent. However, the trend and numbers do suggest a mild improvement.

Limitations

- JHAP patient population typically has complex social disadvantages making acquisition of imaging studies more difficult than other studies
- Did not include patients who had DEXA ordered but not performed
- On busy days, medical assistants may miss the eligibility notification
- COVID pandemic limiting JHAP office visits and non-urgent imaging/procedures

Future Directions

- Including osteoporosis screening rates in My Panel Metrics to be reviewed biannually with clinic faculty
- Developing an algorithm through Epic to automatically pend a DEXA order for patients who are due
- Informative session/packets around the clinic